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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/057,362	01/25/2002	Brett P. Hollman	40256.2-US-01	2005
25764	7590	12/12/2005	EXAMINER	
FAEGRE & BENSON LLP PATENT DOCKETING 2200 WELLS FARGO CENTER MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			AL AUBAIDI, RASHA S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2642	

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/057,362	Applicant(s) HOLLMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Rasha S. AL-Aubaidi	Art Unit 2642	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 13-14, 16-20, 22 and 26-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hluchyj et al. (US PAT # 5,402,478).

Regarding claim 1, Hluchyj teaches an automated routing system for designing a route in a communications network through which a communication line may be installed between a source location and a destination location as specified in a service request for the communication line, the system comprising (this reads on the system and method for providing the optimal path, see col. 3, lines 65-67 and col. 4, lines 57-58): a find module identifying one or more possible capacity links within the communication network, each capacity link representing an ability to transport data over a predefined segment of the communication network between the source location and the destination location (this basically reads on the optimal feasible path determination unit finding the path, see col. 4, lines 8-13); a build module constructing a capacity graph of the communication network depicting connectivity of each of the possible capacity links to an adjacent possible capacity link such that one or more possible routes are defined (see col. 7, lines 65-68 and col. 8, lines 1-10) between a source node

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representing the source location (this reads on the source, see col. 8, lines 55-57) and a destination node representing the destination location (this reads on the destination, see col. 8, lines 55-57); and a select module applying a routing algorithm to the capacity graph to select an optimal route from the one or more possible routes based on a calculated cost factor for installation of the communication line into each of the possible routes within the computer network (see col. 2, lines 60-63 and col. 10, lines 38-64).

Claims 13-14 and 26-27 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 2 recites "invoke module retrieving a route policy for the communication line specifying routing rules based on a given service type of the service request and bandwidth required for installation of the communication line and invoking the route policy such that the find module identifies only possible capacity links that satisfy the routing rules". This basically reads on constructing the path based on certain rules (see col. 4, lines 57-63).

Claims 16 and 28 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 2.

Claim 3 recites "a route available test module testing whether the optimal route is available for use by the communication line". Hluchyj teaches that the determination unit

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besides determining the feasible path also sends the signal to the network unit, which causes implementing the feasible path (see col. 4, lines 8-13).

Claim 20 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 3.

Claim 5 recites "the select module re-applies the routing algorithm to the capacity graph to select a subsequent optimal route if the route available test module determines that the optimal route is not available for use by the communication line (this basically reads on using an alternative route if the designated route not available, see col. 7, lines 60-66).

Claim 22 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 5.

Claim 7 recites "the calculated cost factor for each of the possible routes is determined based on a total distance of the predefined segments covered by the capacity links defining each possible route". See Hluchyj col. 10, lines 38-46.

Claims 17 and 29, recite "the selecting act comprises: selecting a source network element for connecting the source node to a first customer demarcation located at the source location; and selecting a destination network element for connecting the

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destination node to a second customer demarcation located at the destination location".

See col. 6, lines 52-60.

Claims 18 and 30 recite "testing whether the source network element contains an incoming egress port for connecting to the first customer demarcation; and testing whether the destination network element contains an outgoing egress port for connecting to the second customer demarcation". This is inherent because testing the outlets at the customer demarcation is a necessary step that must be applied in order to ensure the communication line is functioning properly.

Claims 19 and 31 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 18 and 30.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

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under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 4, 6, 8-12, 15, 21, 23, 25 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hluchyj et al. (US PAT # 5,402,478).

Regarding claims 4 and 21, Hluchyj does not specifically teach the use of a submit module submitting the optimal route to a command and control engine for instillation of the communication line.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have submit the optimal route to a submitting unit or any similar device, which will be in charge of having the optimal route implemented and works properly as its originally designed. Examiner takes official notice that submitting an optimal route to a submitting unit in order to implement the communication line is old and well known in the art.

Regarding claims 6 and 23, Hluchyj does not specifically teach "when the optimal route found not available for use by the communication line is eliminated as the one or more possible routes defined by the capacity graph". However, in Fig. 2, Hluchyj

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teaches if the optimal feasible path is unavailable then implements a Fallback strategy at step 206 and blocking where Fallback routing unavailable (see col. 8, lines 66-68 and col. 9, lines 1-4). Thus, applying the blocking feature when the optimal feasible path unavailable reads on eliminating an optimal route when it is not available.

Regarding claims 9 and 15, Hluchyj does not specifically teach that “the routing algorithm is Dijkstra's algorithm”. However, Hluchyj teaches the use of an algorithm in order to select and implement the optimal route/path. Thus, obviously one can choose any type of algorithm that can lead to the same end result of finding, selecting and implementing the optimal feasible route/path.

Claim 8 recites “the service request specifies intermediate locations through which the communication line must pass between the source location and the destination location, the system further comprising: a define module defining an intermediate node corresponding to each intermediate location such that the find module identifies only possible capacity links that may be joined between adjacent intermediate nodes, a first intermediate node and the source node and a final intermediate node and the destination node”. Hluchyj does not specifically teach that the service request specifies intermediate locations through which the communication line must pass between the source location and the destination location. However, this is obvious since any path/route can pass through multiple nodes while traveling from the

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source location to the destination location. Advantages of having intermediate nodes are well known in the art.

Claims 25 and 32 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 8.

Regarding claims 10, 11 and 12, Hluchyj does not specifically teach the communication line is a private line circuit, an unprotected private line circuit, and a wavelength circuit. However, one can choose/request any kind of line circuit based on the need of the user/customer.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Becker (US PAT # 5,680,448) teaches an algorithm tests the allocation of an incoming call to each of the X-location and selects the appropriate location (see abstract, col. 3, lines 9-23 and col. 4, lines 1-11).

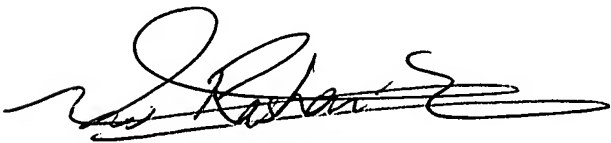
Kobayashi et al. (US PAT # 5,337,352) teach a private branch exchange system having an automatic optimal route selecting mechanism (see abstract and 2, lines 53-66).

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rasha S AL-Aubaidi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7481. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad F. Matar, can be reached on (571) 272-7488.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rasha S. Al-Aubaidi', with a stylized, flowing script.

Examiner
Rasha S. Al-Aubaidi
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12/08/2005